

ADDED CLAIMS

Please add the following claims.

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11. (New) A method for connecting a subscriber to a service provider over a communications network, comprising:
- maintaining a first connection between a subscriber and a service provider while the subscriber is connected to the service provider; and
- intermittently setting up a second connection between the subscriber and the service provider when transmitting data between the subscriber and the service provider,
- wherein the first and second connections are associated together.
12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the first connection is to a point of presence server of an Internet service provider over a D-channel.
13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the second connection is a B-channel connection.
14. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising
- charging for service by the service provider for each time interval in which the second connection is intermittently set up.
15. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising

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clearing down the second connection after the end of data transmission and
approximately when the time interval has already been charged.
